Mr. M. K. Raman.—My question is whether any tangible steps were hitherto taken by the Government during the course of the fifteen months.

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No action was taken which can be published.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Have the Government any objection to inform this House what action they have taken?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—It is of a confidential nature.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—(6) May I know what the difference of opinion is? Is it the opinion of the Government that untouchability should be removed or not and that itself is a matter of opinion or that the question whether they should take any action is a matter of opinion?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—The statement here is that public opinion is in favour of the removal and that any action taken by the Government will have the support of the public.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Whether the removal of untouchability is itself a matter of difference of opinion or whether Government should take any action; what is the point?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—On both the points.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that within these fifteen months any organised body or any responsible body has raised any objection with regard to the removal of untouchability?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—That requires notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Whether anybody has objected?

Deputy President.—He said he wants notice.

Paddy fields,—Chellanam.

258. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government de pleased to state the following:—

(a) whether the Diwan did not personally inspect the paddy fields in Chellanam to investigate into the disputes existing there between the Thirumala Devaswam on the one hand and numerous small holders on the other in the matter of letting out water from those paddy fields:

(b) whether he has passed any final orders in the matter, and if so, what is it;

(c) whether he has not ordered the putting up of two new sluices in Erattathodu and one in Puthenthodu for the above purpose;

(d) whether the Panchayat concerned has not already submitted estimates for the above works in accordance with the requisition of the Government;

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(e) what further steps have been taken in the matter and, if not, why not ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A copy of the Diwan's Proceedings, dated 18th January 1931, Dis. 35/R/1106 (P. W. D.) is appended. (*Appendix XVIII*).

(c) Yes.

(d) No. Estimates were got prepared by the Overseer.

(e) The estimates are being scrutinised. Provision for the work will be made in the budget for 1108.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—(b) Why provision was not made in the budget of 1107 although orders of the Diwan were passed long before the budget estimate was prepared ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I was told there was some provision of about Rs. 1,500 ; I am not sure.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—That is with regard to the extension of the existing sluices. Why the Government did not make any provision for the new sluices in this year's budget ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No provision was made, because the estimate of the work was not ready then.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Am I to understand that you make provision in the budget only after getting the estimates prepared ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—As far as possible, only after that.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is it not the practice to make provision in the budget and then call for estimates to execute the work ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No, as far as possible. There may be instances of other kinds.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Am I to understand that this is the general practice ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—Yes.

259. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the following—

(1) the final order passed by the Diwan in the matter referred to in question No. 258 ;

(2) copies of petition or petitions received in regard to the above matter after the date of the Diwan's order mentioned above ;

(3) reports or orders, if any, passed on any one of these petitions by subordinate officers of the Government ?

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Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(1) The Member is referred to the answer to sub-division (b) of question No. 258.

(2) Copies of petitions from Mr. E. Krishna Menon and others, dated 8th Edavam 1106 and Mr. Valia Parambil Kypari Bappu and others, dated 22nd Mithunam 1106 are placed on the table (*Appendix XIX*).

(3) A copy of the Village Panchayat Registrar's report dated 26th June 1931, C. 4682/1106, is placed on the table. (*Appendix XX*).

Regarding Health Certificates by Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

260. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—With reference to the answer given by the Government to the supplementary question in connection with question No. 118 during the last session of the Legislative Council, in regarding the granting of Health Certificates by Sub-Assistant Surgeons, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Trippunittura, Vadakkancheri and Mattancheri were not issuing Health Certificates during the years 1092 and 1093 M. E.;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to place on the Council Table, the counter-foils of Health Certificates issued from those three institutions during the aforesaid years?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) As per correction slip to Article 11 of the Financial Code, the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer was competent to depute any subordinate not below the rank of an Apothecary to grant the certificate. As the department then had two types of officers with a common name Sub-Assistant Surgeon, the first grade men who were mostly graduates and Apothecaries from the Medical College were allowed this privilege whereas men with lower qualification of L. M. P. who were styled second grade men were not as a rule granted this privilege The privilege did not refer to men by virtue of their being in any special station. But it so happened that during that period these three stations mentioned above had first grade Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

(b) The counter-foils from Trippunittura and Vadakkancheri are not available at this distance of time, whereas the counter-foils of Health Certificates issued from Mattancheri are placed on the Council Table. It will be seen from a few counter-foils during the year 1093 that second grade Sub-Assistant Surgeon Mr. George Joseph continued to issue the certificates as his predecessor first grade Sub-Assistant Surgeon D'Mello was doing.

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